

MISS SOMERSET, B. H. S. TEACHER, IS DEAD AT 58

Delayed Operation Results Fatally to Woman Who Served City Well.

THOUSANDS MOURN FORMER PRECEPTOR

Last Days Clouded By Report That Man Was To Have Her Place.

After a life of service to the city of Bridgeport which was concluded last Friday, Margaret Faith Somerset, one of the best known and best loved educators of this vicinity, died at St. Vincent's hospital, New York City, at 5 o'clock this morning. For 38 years she had been one of the most versatile and accomplished instructors in the employ of the city and during this period had helped, perhaps, thousands of young men and women for life. All of these counted her as friend and all feel a deep personal loss at her death.

Although she had been ill for some time, Miss Somerset continued at her work until the close of the session on Friday. On Saturday she journeyed to New York for a long needed operation which was performed on Monday. The strain was too severe and the end came this morning.

While friends who knew of her plans to undergo the operation, encouraged her, Miss Somerset herself told them that she did not expect to survive it and before leaving, made suggestions to a teacher and great personal friends at the High school concerning arrangements for her funeral. While the announcement of her death was not made until after the arrival late this afternoon, of her brother, Dr. William Somerset, of New York, it is said that her wish that she be buried in Trinity Episcopal church with the full service of that denomination will be carried out. For several years she had been an active communicant of this church and at the time of her death was secretary of its Women's Auxiliary.

The last few days of Miss Somerset's life were clouded. Realizing the necessity of undergoing surgical treatment, she made application to Superintendent Samuel J. Slawson of the public schools, for leave of absence. She recommended a substitute.

Just before entering the hospital, she confided to intimate friends that she was appraised, when she made application for leave, that the department of education was considering the advisability of supplying her with a male teacher. In tears, she spoke of the ingratitude that such a proceeding would bespeak for a city to which she had given service so long and so conscientiously.

Miss Somerset was born in Portland, Conn., 58 years ago. She was graduated from Middletown High school when very young and then took a special course at a few months at New Britain Normal school. For four years she taught in the grade schools of Portland and Middletown. In 1878 she came to Bridgeport to teach in the primary department of Waterville school. She remained at that school for four years and in 1882 was transferred to Congress street school where she had charge of the ninth grade.

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MOHR CASE WITNESSES ARRESTED

Wife and Sister of Spellman, One of Defendants, Are Held for Perjury As Trial Is Nearing Its Close.

Providence, R. I., Feb. 2.—Mrs. Besie R. Spellman, the wife, and Mrs. Gertrude Dail, a sister of Henry H. Spellman, one of the defendants in the case of the murder of Dr. C. Franklin Mohr, were arrested today on a charge of perjury. The women had testified at the morning session and had given evidence in support of an alibi for Spellman.

The first intimation by the state that it was preparing to lay foundation for perjury charges came up on the cross-examination of Mrs. Dail, who denied that in a statement to the grand jury she had declared she did not know what time Spellman returned home the morning of the killing. Today she explained that she did know because she heard him.

William H. Lewis, counsel for Brown, objected to this line of questioning, although the court held that it was proper as it was the only way by which the state could attempt the prosecution on such a charge.

Mrs. Spellman testified that on the night of the murder, her husband, with whom she was not living at the time, came to her mother's home, where she was stopping, and after getting something to eat, went to his sister's home to sleep.

After court adjourned, Attorney General Rice told Attorney Lewis that he would have warrants issued immediately for the arrest of two witnesses for the defense, unless Mr. Lewis agreed to have the two go on the stand this afternoon and "tell the truth."

"We have no statements to withdraw," replied Mr. Lewis.

Mrs. Spellman and Mrs. Dail, the witnesses to whom Mr. Rice said he referred, were later arrested and taken to police headquarters.

Raises In Rent, Due To Tax Boosts, Rob Labor Of New-Found Benefits

Landlords Forced To Increase Rentals Because of Enormous Demands of City Treasury and Workers Must Pay Their Share Towards Support of Mismanaged Administration.

Has your rent been raised yet? This is a question nearly everybody is asking of nearly everybody else. When the boost in valuation of dwelling houses took place landlords began to increase rents. The announcement by City Auditor Bernard F. Keating, that the tax rate would have to be 20.7 mills accelerated the operation of raising, and thousands of tenants already have received notice that they must pay from \$2 to \$5 a month more for the homes they occupy.

Many landlords had postponed raising rents, and have now added the entire charge occasioned to them by the rate and valuation increases of the past three years.

The average increase per family is estimated as in the neighborhood of \$36 a year, a sum which takes from workmen, who constitute the bulk of Bridgeport's population, a very large part of the pecuniary advantages, gained by the recent strikes and the settlements that came from them.

In some cases the strike was settled upon the basis of an eight hour day with ten hours pay. Such workers retain the short hours, but the higher rent makes them worse off than they were in a financial way, by amounts ranging from \$25 to \$36 and beyond.

According to the census for 1910, 25,000 odd wage earners in Bridgeport, including men and women, earned an average wage of slightly more than \$500 a year. Some earned a great deal more, and some a great deal less.

Among women wage earners, as among men, were many, the heads of families, widowed or otherwise, drawing scanty pay. The labor settlement in many cases gained these women shorter hours, but not higher pay. At any rate all such women, find themselves worse off than they were, by the larger sums they are required to pay for rent, a consequence which in many cases they do not trace to municipal extravagance, since they do not pay direct taxes and do not understand the means by which taxes are levied and collected.

With respect to male workers, many have received very large increases. But many others got eight hours with ten hours pay, and find their incomes largely diminished.

In spite of wage increases it is probable the average pay in Bridgeport is under 20 cents an hour, and the average wage but slightly over \$10 a week.

Many receive much more, but many receive much less. Viewed from any angle, municipal extravagance has placed a trying burden upon thousands of men and women struggling to get along in a market in which the cost of living is constantly increasing.

It was said today that the authorities count on the indignation over the high taxation, to enable them to put over more bonds. The pro bonding element will argue, as it did two years ago, that no bonds means more taxes, but will ignore the fact that more bonding also means more taxes and means it for a long time to come.

Leading business men, all over the city, are deprecating the extravagance and waste which has produced an unpleasant situation. They realize that the well being of Bridgeport requires the cost of living to be at least as low as the cost of living in other cities. They know that wages must be not nominally but actually high here, compared with other cities, in order that Bridgeport may attain its maximum industrial growth, and prosperity.

THROUGH STANDS OLD HIGH SCHOOL IN GOLD TO HEAR PRESIDENT TALK WILL TAKE UPPER GRADE STUDENTS

First Stop In Kansas Made at Lawrence, Where College Boys Sing

Lawrence, Kas., Feb. 2.—President Wilson made his first Kansas stop here. He was greeted by a cheering crowd of several thousand, including students from Kansas University. The temperature was below zero and the ground covered with snow, but a band played patriotic airs and the students sang and gave their college yells.

Topeka, Kas., Feb. 2.—President Wilson touched the furthest west point today in his tour of speaking for national preparedness. After his address at Des Moines, at 1 p. m., he will leave for Kansas City, to reach there at 5 o'clock, speaking again tonight. At 11 p. m. he will depart for St. Louis where tomorrow he will deliver his last address of the tour.

Kansas City, Feb. 2.—President Wilson arrived here today at 7:48 a. m., en route from Des Moines, Ia., to Topeka, Kas. He left here at 8:12 a. m. The small crowd at the station were unable to see the President who was still asleep.

ANOTHER THREAT TO DEMAND TAX RELIEF

Again the office of the board of relief was besieged today with property owners who desired to appeal from the assessments levied against them.

ONLY 150 PAY TAXES

About 150 men had paid their personal taxes up to noon today. There are nearly 23,000 persons liable for the tax.

STAR WITNESS IN BORINO CASE CAN'T BE FOUND

Two Weeks' Search by State Police Fails to Locate Mrs. Roquette.

PROSECUTION MAY SUFFER, IS BELIEF

Much Speculation Over Disappearance in Local Police Circles.

Disappearance of the principal witness in the case of Ralph Borino, former court interpreter, has complicated the state's prosecution, and unless search discloses the witness' whereabouts, progress will be interrupted.

The case is to be brought before the superior court next week, and efforts to find Mrs. Margaret Roquette, former proprietress of the Auto Hotel, have failed. She was bailed by Robert F. Adams of Stamford and after her release she left the city.

State police have been searching in New York for two weeks without success. Mrs. Roquette's old haunts were sought by a woman detective, but the witness couldn't be located. As she was expected to be the state's principal witness in the prosecution of Borino, her loss will be felt.

Police say friends of Borino are boasting that he'll be a free man in another week.

Robert F. Adams, of Stamford, a client of the law firm of Fallon & Greenstein, went bail for Borino and Mrs. Roquette. When Adams became acquainted with the nature of the case he recalled the bond.

Borino was released from the county jail last night upon bonds of \$1,500 being furnished by Pellegrino Aurilio, a saloonkeeper, of 87 Clarence street. He had been out on the same amount of bonds furnished by Robert F. Adams of Stamford, but his bondsman surrendered him on Thursday, Jan. 27. Adams has also furnished bonds of \$1,500 for the freedom of Mrs. Margaret Roquette, arrested with Borino and who was to be used as a state's witness, according to the prosecution.

Adams learned the charge on which Borino was held was a serious one, he ordered counsel to have the bonds withdrawn and Borino surrendered to the county authorities. A search was made for Borino but he could not be found and rumor had it that he had left the East. He was found Jan. 17 by Policeman Joseph T. Coughlin in Main street.

SECRET SERVICE MEN TO PROBE FEDEROFF CASE

Man Arrested at Arms Work Alleged to Have Altered Naturalization Papers

Theodore Federoff, who claims to be a native of Kiev, Russia, arrested here late yesterday through the activities of United States secret service agents, will be taken from Hartford to Washington for a further investigation into the alleged alteration of his naturalization papers disclosed when he applied to the Remington Arms plant for employment.

United States Secret Service Agent, Capt. R. M. Davies, and Detective Frank Cantillon, both at the Arms plant, examined the application for naturalization papers of Federoff when he applied for a position at the factory. The papers were sent to Examiner John M. Church at Boston and the latter in reply said that the application presented to the factory officials was false as the dates and name of Federoff were not the same as the original which was filed with Church.

Federoff gave the name of Heisan, age 22, of 181 Atlantic street, on the application which he presented at the Arms Company employment office. He has been in this country for seven years and came here from Bethlehem, Pa., where he is said to have taken a prominent part in the labor movement. He is alleged to have been active in San Francisco about five years ago.

Federoff was arrested by Detective George Fox yesterday afternoon and he was taken to Hartford this morning by Henry J. Jentzer, special agent of the Department of Justice at Washington. Federoff will be taken to Washington where a further investigation will be made.

"At 4 a. m. received wireless Takata Maru. Reports engine room and stokehold flooded. Takata Maru also reported that she had been sending out numerous calls for assistance and that the steamer Silver Shell was standing by. The Silver Shell reports all well."

Weather conditions two hundred miles off the southeast coast of New Foundland were favorable today to small boats drift on the Atlantic. A storm passed off the New Foundland coast yesterday, but it was not a heavy one.

If the Takata Maru and the Silver Shell met 200 miles southeast of Cape Race, no vessel from this port could reach the scene before tomorrow. It is known that several trans-Atlantic vessels are approaching the position last given by the Silver Shell.

BRITISH REPLY TO U. S. PROTEST SOON

London, Feb. 2.—Great Britain's reply to the American note on the British blockade is expected within ten days.

THE WEATHER

For Connecticut: Snow and sleet tonight and Thursday; fresh and northeast and east winds.

PRIZE CREW MAY SCUTTLE LINER APPAM TO PREVENT HER RECAPTURE BY BRITISH

BERLIN HOPES NEW NOTE TO VON BERNSTORFF MAY END LUSITANIA DISPUTE

Berlin, Feb. 2.—By wireless to Sayville.—Instructions have been sent by the German government to Ambassador von Bernstorff at Washington of such a nature as to give "reasonable hope for a positive understanding" concerning the Lusitania affair, it was announced here today.

The announcement, which of a semi-official nature, is said by the overseas News Agency to have been made "in connection with alarming English reports about the nature of German-American relations." The text of the statement is given by the news agency as follows:

"It is true that on Saturday, Jan. 29, a telegraphic report from the German ambassador at Washington arrived at Berlin, showing that up to that time it had been impossible to adjust the Lusitania case in a manner satisfactory to both sides by friendly verbal exchanges of views. On Tuesday, instructions were transmitted by telegraph to the German Ambassador which gives reasonable hope for a positive understanding."

Washington, Feb. 2.—At the German embassy it was stated today that Count von Bernstorff had received no instructions from Berlin and that if such instructions had been cabled by the foreign office on Feb. 1 they would not be expected here much before tomorrow.

None of the embassy officials would venture an opinion as to what the instructions referred to as giving "reasonable hope for a positive understanding," although they expressed the hope that they would be satisfactory to the United States.

CONCEDE NINE HOUR DAY FOR CRANE WORKERS

Increased Wages Promised in Bulletins Posted In Local Plants.

BIG CONCERN JOINS 50-HOUR WEEK RANKS

Adjustment of Schedule Will Be Made Feb. 28, Announces Firm.

The Crane Co. of this city posted bulletins yesterday announcing that the 50-hour week will be instituted in the two local plants of the company. As soon as conferences make arrangements, wage adjustments will be made, with upward revision.

The 10-hour day has been in force four days a week at the Crane plant for a long time and the change will be welcomed. Workers struck last summer for shorter hours, but, because of conditions, the company did not grant their request.

In labor circles today, it was conceded that the efforts of the International Molders' Union officials in this city, who have used tact and skill in their negotiations, precipitated the change.

The new schedule of hours will be in force Feb. 28. As soon after that as plans may be completed, the new schedule of wages will be in force.

A meeting of movers will be held at 8 o'clock tomorrow evening in Phillips' hall, 172 Willard street.

Wireless Reports Japanese and American Ships Still Above Water

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 2.—The Japanese steamer Takata Maru and the steamer Silver Shell, which were reported to have been in collision 200 miles southeast of Cape Race last night, were afloat at 4 o'clock this morning, at which hour a wireless was received at Cape Race, N. F., from the Takata.

The message addressed to the agent of the Marine and Fisheries department, by the Cape Race wireless station, read: "At 4 a. m. received wireless Takata Maru. Reports engine room and stokehold flooded. Takata Maru also reported that she had been sending out numerous calls for assistance and that the steamer Silver Shell was standing by. The Silver Shell reports all well."

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FIRE BOARD TO PENSION CLERK, D. CLIFFORD HALL

Commissioners Are Expected to Name Leonard's Candidate As His Successor.

HAS BEEN CLERK OF BOARD FOR 14 YEARS

Hoseman John Kelly Slated for Transfer, According to Report

D. Clifford Hall, fourth assistant chief and clerk of the fire department will probably be retired on pension when the fire board meets tonight. Chief Hall has been on the force for several years and since before Christmas has been unable to attend his duties and has been obliged to keep to his home, in Laurel avenue. Mrs. Chris Schread has been his assistant for about 18 months in doing the work of the office.

Mr. Hall was appointed clerk of the department in 1902 when the salary was made \$1,200. From that time until July 16, 1914 he had to go before the board for election yearly. Then he was made permanent clerk and assistant chief. The salary now is \$1,700 yearly. His pension if retired will be half of this sum.

A clerk at the Crane Co., the selection of President John A. Leonard of the fire board is said to be slated to succeed him at a salary of \$1,300. Hoseman John Kelly who was injured some time ago and has since been doing watch duty at No. 2 Chemical house will be at the No. 5 house tonight, according to report.

SURVIVOR ADMITS HE OWNED PISTOL IN AUTO TRAGEDY

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 2.—John Edward Teiper, detained in connection with the Orchard Park tragedy, admits the ownership of the revolver found 75 feet from the automobile in the Orchard Park road, according to announcement by District Attorney Dudley at noon today. He said he bought the weapon ten days ago but at first denied ownership. The admission came after the ownership had been traced.

TWO KILLED, MANY HURT AS BOILERS IN SHOP EXPLODE

New Brunswick, N. J., Feb. 2.—Two men, employees, were killed and several others injured by a boiler explosion followed by fire which destroyed the plant of the Howe Rubber Co. in Northern New Brunswick township today. The property loss was estimated at between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Can't Place Blame For Lynching of Five

Leesburg, Ga., Feb. 2.—The Lee County Grand Jury announced here last night that its investigation into the lynching of five negroes near here Jan. 20 had proved futile. In its presentments, the jury condemned the lynching.

The negroes who were taken from jail and hanged had been held as suspects in the killing of Sheriff Merrill of Lee county.

State Department May Accept Commander's View That Ship Is Prize and Turn Her Back to Captors, Who May Sink Her Off Capes.

German Embassy Official Visits Lieut. Berg—Vessel Carried Treasure In Bouillon—Release of Passengers to Be Taken Up Today.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Secretary Lansing said today that the state department had yet made no decision of its attitude toward the British liner Appam, which yesterday entered Hampton Roads with a German prize crew. Rear Admiral Beatty, commanding the Norfolk Navy Yard, has reported that Lieut. Berg claims the ship is a prize of war. The German embassy has not yet determined whether it will claim the Appam as an auxiliary cruiser or a prize.

If the Appam finally is held to be a prize, the Prussian-American treaty of 1828 is more likely to govern the case than is The Hague convention. This would mean that the Appam would be turned over to her captors, and in that case some German officials expressed the view that the prize crew, rather than let her fall back into the hands of the British, as would seem inevitable if she left port, might take the ship to the three mile limit and sink her.

In case she is held to have become a German auxiliary she will have the choice of leaving, after a certain time for supplies or repairs, or internment for the war as have the Prinz Eitel Friedrich and Kron Prinz Wilhelm.

Officials point out that the case of British collier Farn, captured by the German cruiser Karlsruhe, re-named the Odenwald and finally interned in San Juan, Porto Rico, might be regarded as a somewhat similar case. The British authorities contended the Odenwald should be turned back to the British officers in the status of a prize, but the American government held she had taken on the character of an auxiliary and she was interned.

The original Prussian-American treaty of 1799 provided: "The vessels of war, public and private, of both parties shall carry freely wherever they please the vessels and effects taken from their enemies without being obliged to pay any duties, charges or fees to officers of admiralty, of the customs, or any others; nor shall such prizes be arrested, searched or put under legal process when they come to and enter the ports of the other party, but may freely be carried out again at any time by their captors to the places expressed in their commissions which the commanding officer of such vessel shall be obliged to show. But, conformably to the treaties existing between the United States and Great Britain no vessel that shall have made a prize upon British subjects shall have a right to shelter in the ports of the United States, but if forced therein by tempest or any other danger or accident of the sea, they shall be obliged to depart as soon as possible."

This latter provision would have

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TURKISH PRINCE SUICIDE

London, Feb. 2.—The suicide of Yussuf Izzedin, heir apparent to the Turkish throne is reported in a despatch received by Reuters' Telegram Company from Constantinople by way of Berlin. The message says the Crown Prince ended his life by cutting arteries in his palace at seven o'clock yesterday morning. Ill-health is given as the reason.